



NEWS RELEASE

from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

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**SERVICE REQUIRES NONTOXIC SHOT ON DESIGNATED AREAS
WITHIN 51 REFUGES**

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has issued additions and modifications to hunting and fishing regulations on national wildlife refuges including new rules requiring the use of nontoxic shot for hunting certain upland and other small game on designated refuges.

The regulations will take effect during the 1995-96 season, with the exception of the nontoxic shot regulations, which will be delayed until the 1996-97 hunting season. This delay will provide additional time for coordination with affected states, hunting organizations, and the general public. Hunters are asked, however, to voluntarily use nontoxic shot on these same refuges prior to the 1996-97 hunting season.

The changes are designed to protect waterfowl and other migratory birds from potential lead poisoning. The Service successfully implemented the use of nontoxic shot for upland game hunting on West Coast refuges in 1991 and on Southwest refuges during the 1992 hunting season. A number of other refuges also have required nontoxic shot for hunting upland game during past hunting seasons.

The Service began a nationwide phase-in of nontoxic shot for waterfowl hunting in 1986 because widespread scientific data indicated that waterfowl and other migratory bird species, including bald eagles, were consuming spent lead pellets and dying either directly or indirectly of lead poisoning. The conversion to nontoxic shot for upland game hunting in and around refuge wetlands or seasonally flooded areas will eliminate this additional source of toxic lead.

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Information concerning hunting and fishing programs on refuges, including permits, special conditions, the requirement for nontoxic shot, and maps of the respective areas, can be obtained from individual refuges or the regional offices of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at the addresses listed below:

Assistant Regional Director - Refuges and Wildlife
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Eastside Federal Complex, Suite 1692
911 NE. 11th Avenue
Portland, OR 97232-4181; Phone: 503-231-6214

Assistant Regional Director - Refuges and Wildlife
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Box 1306
Albuquerque, NM 87103; Phone: 505-248-6802

Assistant Regional Director - Refuges and Wildlife
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Federal Building, Fort Snelling
Twin Cities, MN 55111; Phone: 612-725-3507

Assistant Regional Director - Refuges and Wildlife
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
1875 Century Boulevard, Room 324
Atlanta, GA 30345; Phone: 404-679-7152

Assistant Regional Director - Refuges and Wildlife
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
300 Westgate Center Drive
Hadley, MA 01035; Phone: 413-253-8550

Assistant Regional Director - Refuges and Wildlife
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Box 25486
Denver, CO 80225; Phone: 303-236-8145

Assistant Regional Director - Refuges and Wildlife
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
1011 E. Tudor Rd.
Anchorage, Alaska 99503; Phone: 907-786-3545